

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: 1X.mp4

Other known title(s): Video 1

OFLC ref: 2000163.000

Medium: Video File

Maker: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: Unidentified language

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 23 July 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 23 July 2020

	Components	Running time
Timed component(s):	1X.mp4	1:01
Total running time:		1:01

Summary of reasons for decision:

The video file is a record of a man's suicide filmed by a bystander. Its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good. It is likely to have a particularly strong impact on people of any age who have been touched by suicide. The bystander nature of the footage places the viewer in the position of the person filming and this increases its impact. Most people are unlikely to have been exposed to images of real-life suicide before. Children and teenagers, in particular, will likely find the footage incredibly confronting and disturbing and this is likely to have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing. While the video is also likely to have a strong impact on adults, they are likely to have the emotional maturity and life experience to process such a graphic recording without

suffering long-term harm. Therefore the video file's availability is restricted to adults. While this limits the right to freedom of expression as provided by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, it is a reasonable and justifiable limitation on that right given the high risk of injury to the public good.